From:	Andrew Tarsy
To:	Siddiqui, Sumbul
Subject:	Call for Transparency and an end to the Demonization of Israel
Date:	Tuesday, April 17, 2018 6:28:15 AM

Dear City Council Member E. Denise Simmons,

I respectfully oppose the lack of transparency and unfair singling out of Israel in this City Council Vote. It would tarnish the reputation of our city, achieving nothing.

The Cambridge City Council should not abdicate its responsibilities to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. If you must take up a resolution of this kind, such an effort deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the role of City government. Thousands of American (and Cambridge) companies are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can theoretically be tied to human rights issues.

In this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization. If the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world, the issue of an ethical double standard would not be raised.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a goal we share but will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that belie the hard reality on the ground. There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

Many of my fellow congregants at Temple Israel of Boston live in Cambridge and have talked among ourselves about our desire to help you make this distraction go away. Let me know how I can help.

Regards,
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